

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 12, 2005 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 20 has been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Claims 1-20 and 22 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that an Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on June 29, 2005. Upon review of the returned Form 1449, it appears that a U.S. reference listed on sheet 2 was inadvertently not initialed. A new Form 1449 listing the U.S. reference is herewith provided. It is respectfully submitted that the reference was previously submitted in proper conformance with the rules under 37 CFR §1.97. Accordingly, Applicants believe no further fee is required for consideration of this reference. If the Examiner determines that a fee is in fact required, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form 1449 with the next communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

I. The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuble et al. (U.S. Patent 4,904,282) in view of Gillingham et al. (U.S. Patent 5,820,646). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A. Claims 1-8

The Examiner asserts that Stuble teach a method of cleaning filters by directing a flow of pressurized fluid into the filter through a downstream flow face. In particular, the Examiner notes that, although throughout the entire document Stuble discloses a method of cleaning a filter by drawing or sucking air, Stuble discloses on page 5, lines 10-13, that "the air to be purified can be blown or sucked through the filter device 10 by air conveying means. . . ." This text passage forms the basis for the Examiner's conclusion that Stuble

discloses a method of cleaning a filter including blowing air into the filter through a downstream face of the filter.

Applicants respectfully note that the text of which the Examiner bases this rejection is directed toward a method of purifying air, not a method of cleaning a filter. That is, in the Specific Description of Stuble, beginning in column 3, the text relates to the operation of the filter device 10 for separating textile impurities from textile machine rooms. The method of filtering using the device 10 (i.e., the operation of the device 10) is described in detail up to the point where the disclosure states that "the air to be purified," that is, the air being filtered by the filters, "can be blown or sucked through the filter device 10 by air conveying means. . ."

The disclosure of air being blown or sucked through the filters relates only to a method of purifying air, not a method of cleaning the filters. Stuble does not disclose, teach or suggest that air can be blown or sucked through the filters to clean the filters. In fact, after the quoted passage of lines 5-10 relating to how the device operates when purifying air, Stuble then goes on to disclose how the filters of the device can be cleaned. The method of cleaning disclosed relates only to drawing or sucking air out from an upstream face (dirty side) the filter.

Where Stuble fails to teach a method of cleaning filters including directing a flow of pressurized fluid into a media construction through a downstream face, Gillingham does not make up for the deficiencies of Stuble. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8 are patentable.

B. Claims 9-14

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claim 9 asserting that it would be obvious to have the shape of filters as claimed (a non-rectangular parallelogram shape) since a mere change of shape without affecting the function of the part would be an obvious design modification.

Applicants submit that the non-rectangular parallelogram is not a mere change of shape that does not affect the function of the part. In the industry, it is well known that the shape of a filter construction does, in fact, affect the function of the part. For instance, Stuble discloses that "each pair of adjacent filters 15 form[s] a V in cross-

section. The advantage of this is that air for purification can flow in a particularly uniform manner . . . [so that] that impurities deposited from the air can be distributed on them in a substantially uniform manner." Column 4, lines 36-41. Stuble teaches that the shape of a filter does, in fact, affect the function of the filter. Similarly, Applicants' specification also teaches that the shape of the filter affects the function of the filter; see pages 9-10, lines 7-17, for discussion of the function provided by a "slanted block form[ing] a parallelogram that is non-rectangular."

Applicants respectfully submit that because the shape of the filter does affect the function of the filter, the basis for rejection claims 9-14 cannot be properly maintained. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 9-14 are patentable.

II. The Examiner rejected claims 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stuble et al. (U.S. Patent 4,904,282) in view of Gillingham et al. (U.S. Patent 5,820,646), and further in view of Brunner (U.S. Patent 5,,964,909). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 20 and cancelled claim 21 to advance this application to allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original submit matter in a continuing application.

A. Claims 15-19

Claim 15 recites an air intake system including a cleaning system oriented to send a flow of pressurized fluid through a downstream flow face of a filter media. At least for similar reasons discussed with regards to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit neither Stuble nor Gillingham meet the requirements to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. It is further submitted that Brunner does not make up for the deficiencies of Stuble and Gillingham, as Brunner also does not disclose a cleaning system that sends a flow of pressurized fluid into a media construction through a downstream flow face of the construction.

At least for this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-19 are patentable.

B. Claims 20 and 22

Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 21. Claim 21 relates to the first and second media constructions forming a non-rectangular parallelogram. At least for similar reasons discussed with regards to claim 9, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20 and 22 are patentable.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-20 and 22) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

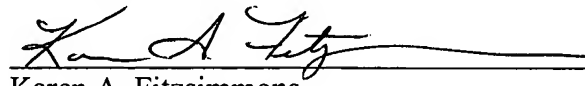
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.

Respectfully submitted,



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